



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Public Hearing Testimony
Planning & Development Committee

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Miller, Senator Linares, Representative Aman and esteemed members of the Planning & Development Committee, I submit this testimony in support of H.B.5181 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DELIVERY OF FREE NEWSPAPERS.

In the 23rd District, free newspapers like the Lyme Times, the Harbor News, and the Shoreline Times cover much of our local news. I appreciate and respect the hard work of the staff that helps to put these papers together. Up until a few months ago, all of these papers were being delivered through the U.S. Postal Service and delivered to people's mailboxes on a weekly basis. Recently though, the Shoreline Times began to deliver their paper by throwing it on driveways rather than mailing it. This has created problems of pollution and safety concerns since the papers go to every house, regardless of whether the home is for sale, abandoned, or a summer home. Not to mention, some people simply don't want it or can't see it, so they don't pick the paper up.

This is not discrimination against newspapers, but rather a request from my constituents that their property be respected. The Shoreline Times piles up and lines the streets of my district, which creates both pollution and a public safety issues that cannot be ignored simply because it's due to a newspaper. I'd argue that the paper is being read less and, without a doubt, becoming known as a nuisance rather than a resource. I believe it is in everyone's best interest to end the current practice of throwing free, unsolicited newspapers at the end of every driveway, but, in the very least, these companies should allow people an easy way out as this bill suggests.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Devin Carney